(a) whether Government is aware that there is no proper arrangement of catering facility and cleanliness at several airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of eatables and beverages sold at airports are much higher than that of such items sold at Railway stations and at other places;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for selling the food and drinking items at reasonable rates at the aerodromes so that people from every class of society can afford them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Proper arrangement of catering facilities in hygienic condition are made at all the operational airports by way of Restaurant, Snack Bars, Tea/ Coffee/ Cold Drink Vending machines. The airports are maintained in neat and clean conditions through regular employees / maintenance contracts. The periodical customer satisfaction surveys have been carried out to maintain proper standards.

(c) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been ensuring providing reasonably priced food and drinking items at Snack Bars and Kiosks to all categories of users at all airports. The price of the food items at all outlets have been approved by AAI and subsequently monitored.

Blending in Jet fuel

733. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Air New Zealand has successfully completed a two-hour flight of passenger jet powered in part by vegetable oil;

(b) if so, whether such technology would be imported or indigenously developed;

(c) whether initially one engine of the aeroplane can powered by a 50-50 blend of oil from jatropha plants and standard jet fuel; and

(d) whether the factor of environment sustainability would also be taken in account while evaluating the viability of such a fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A report on the matter come to the notice through media. However, no authentic report has been received from International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) or International Air Travellers Association (IATA).

(b) to (d) No such proposal is under consideration with the Ministry.

Air services from Gwalior

†734.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that adequate air services are not available in Madhya Pradesh which is an important State from tourism and historical point of view;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to interlink several places of Madhya Pradesh such as Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore etc., with air services; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to link Gwalior with air services which is a place of tourism and historical importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) At present, scheduled air services are available to/from Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur and Khajuraho in the State of Madhya Pradesh. NACIL, Alliance Air, Jet Airways, JetLite and Kingfisher Airlines are operating to/from Madhya Pradesh. Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Construction work at airports

735. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the construction works of New Delhi and Mumbai Airports is to be completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has already been abnormally delayed; and

(c) if so, the final date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Construction of airport development projects at Mumbai and New Delhi airports are as per schedule. The Phase-I of the construction work is scheduled to be completed by March 2010 in the case of IGI Airport, New Delhi and by December 2012 in the case of CSI Airport, Mumbai.

Airport at Guntur

736. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up an airport in the vicinity of Guntur district especially in Chilakaluri Peta in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such airport will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.